

## WA's approach to regional wellbeing

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The Royalties for Regions program has six policy objectives, focused on building regional communities:

- building capacity in regional communities
- retaining benefits in regional communities
- improving services to regional communities
- attaining sustainability
- expanding opportunity
- growing prosperity.

Delivering community-based primary health care through comprehensive and integrated models of service is essential to address health issues for rural people, especially for the elderly, vulnerable groups, Aboriginal people, mental health, and parental and child health.

Addressing these health issues through collaborations that incorporate social determinants of health factors can significantly improve health gain for individuals and is expected to reduce the demand on hospital-based acute services.

The presentation will describe some of the legislative background to the RfR program and highlight some of the RfR partnerships. These will include partnerships with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, with the Pilbara Industry's Community Council, and the Southern Inland Health Initiative. This last is a bold and innovative approach to bring about change, health reform and service improvement across a large part of Western Australia and provides a model that other rural health services could explore and implement.